

CLAIMS

1. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface, and comprising:
 - a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use, around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;
 - and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient.
- 10 2. The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the limb-sealing means comprises a perforated, elastic diaphragm.
3. The device of any preceding claim wherein at least one of the limb-sealing means comprises a substantially frustoconical portion.
- 15 4. The device of any preceding claim wherein the limb-sealing means are so constructed as to create a wiping action when slid, in use, along a patient's limb.
- 20 5. The device of any preceding claim wherein both ends of the said sleeve are initially closed.
6. The device of any preceding claim wherein the sleeve is substantially transparent.
- 25 7. The device of any preceding claim wherein at least one of any sealed end of the sleeve is perforated, nicked, weakened, or otherwise adapted to assist opening of that sealed end.
8. The device of any preceding claim further comprising at least one tab or loop to assist pulling the sleeve, in use, along a patient's limb.
- 30 9. The device of any preceding claim further comprising fastening means to hold the two ends of the sleeve close to each other, whilst the sleeve is positioned on a patient's limb.

10. The device of any preceding claim with an easily rupturable container of sterilising agent inside (in use) the sleeve.
 11. The device of any preceding claim further comprising a valve arrangement to allow 5 egress of air from within the sleeve whilst the sleeve is positioned on a patient's limb.
 12. The device of any preceding claim further comprising a limb sealing means which is sized and shaped to be extendable beyond an opening formed by removal of the sealed end of the device.
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13. The device of any preceding claim wherein at least one of the limb sealing means adapts to fit limbs of differing circumference without the need to cut sections from the device.
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14. The device of any preceding claim wherein a resealable portal is provided.
 15. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface, and comprising:
a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in
use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised; and
20 respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said
sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb
of a patient and incorporating a perforated elastic diaphragm.
16. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface, and comprising:
25 a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in
use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;
and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of
said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the
limb of a patient and wherein the sleeve is substantially transparent.
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17. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface, and comprising:
a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in
use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;

and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient and wherein at least one of any sealed end of the sleeve is perforated, nicked, weakened or otherwise adapted to assist opening of that sealed end.

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18. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface and comprising:

a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;

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and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient and wherein a valve arrangement is provided to allow egress of air from within the sleeve whilst the sleeve is positioned on a patient's limb.

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19. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface and comprising:

a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;

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and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient and a limb sealing means which is sized and shaped to be extendable beyond an opening formed by removal of the sealed end of the device.

20. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface and comprising:

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a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;

and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient and wherein at least one of the limb sealing means adapts to fit limbs of differing circumference without the need to cut sections from the device.

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21. A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface and comprising:

a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised;

and respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient and wherein a re-sealable portal is provided.

- 5 22. A device substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated by any appropriate combination of the accompanying drawings.